

**2013 Hamfest Calendar**

Nov 16-17 Fort Wayne IN  
 Nov 30 Evansville IN

**2014 Hamfest Calendar**

Jan 4 Waukesha WI  
 Jan 19 St Charles IL  
 Jan 25 Collinsville IL  
 Feb 7-9 Orlando FL



**VE Exam Schedule**

Dec 14 2013 Wabash Valley ARC  
 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed) ARRL/VEC  
 D Steven. Shorter (812) 232-4788  
 Glas-Col Annex-Rear of Building  
 1715 S 8th St Terre Haute IN

**January 2014**  
**Exact Date to be Announced**  
**Twin City Amateur Radio Club**  
**Champaign IL**

**TCARC**  
**PO Box 2061**  
**Champaign, IL 61825-2061**

# Twin City Amateur Radio Club

Champaign-Urbana, Illinois

**November 2013**  
 Milt Forsberg K9QZI Editor



**Meeting November 12**

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 12, at the UI Fire Institute, with starting time of 7:00 p.m. Our program this month is a demonstration of the latest Flex Radio, 6500. We saw the Flex 3000 a few meetings back. That is the low end Flex while the 6500 is the top end just released model. Les Gasser, W9XC, will present the demonstration. This model has much more to offer!

To get to the Fire Institute, go south on First Street from the Assembly Hall to the UI Credit Union - That is Gerty. Go West on Gerty to the end of the street. You will be in the Fire Institute parking lot. We are in one of the classrooms inside.

**TCARC Board Meeting**

The TCARC Board meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Culver's on South Neil Street. This arrangement allows Board Members who are also ARES members to go directly to the ARES meeting at 7, and lets them spend one evening for 2 meetings instead of taking 2 evenings. All club members are welcome to attend the Board Meetings.

**Our Next VE Session**

**January 2014**  
**UI Fire Institute**

**Local Nets**

D-Rats Net on W9YR Tuesday 8 p.m.  
 ◆Week of Second Tuesday - Meets Wednesday  
 ARES 444.100 Tuesday 9 p.m.  
 Illinois D-Star 443.48125 Wednesday 9 p.m.  
 Champaign Co 146.760 Thursday 9 p.m.  
 Illini Net 14.320 11:30 a.m. Daily  
 ◆Except Thursday

**Dues!**

Yes, it is that time again. The amount remains at \$20 per person or \$21 per family. Please send a check to TCARC to our PO Box or drop it off at the meeting. Due date is January 1.

**The Bands Are Open!**

The HF bands have been outstanding the past couple of weeks. Several solar flares charged up the Ionosphere to give us outstanding propagation. All have been open long range, including 10 meters, which has been mostly quiet for a long time. It is common to hear stations as far away as Japan on 10 during the day. Dennis, KA9IBS, worked several European stations on 10 with his 10 watt handheld transceiver, using the stock antenna! At night, Australia and New Zealand are regulars on 20 meters. If you have not tuned the HF bands recently, you are missing out on some of the best conditions in many years. Don't wait - conditions can change

**TCARC Officers and Board Members**

<b>President</b>	Wayne Hamilton AB9FJ	384-4310
<b>Vice President</b>	Paul Toth N9XDN	840-3522
<b>Secretary</b>	Chris Anderson W9CMA	403-1599
<b>Treasurer</b>	Milt Forsberg K9QZI	352-5075

**Board Members**

Jeremy Lamb 2016	621-8036
Kevin Coogan KC8RFE 2014	937-572-2081
Jim Crisman N9AJV	202-7402

**VE Coordinator**

Debbie Fligor N9DN	244-4446
--------------------	----------

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.w9seh.org">www.w9seh.org</a>
<b>Analog Repeater K9CU</b>	146.760
<b>D-Star Repeater W9YR</b>	443.48125

## New VP

We now have a new Vice President of the TCARC. Paul Toth, N9XDN, agreed to the appointment by the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy by Jim Crisman, N9AJV, who resigned due to increased workload in his business. Jim did agree to accept the appointment as a Director. We are pleased that the transition was accepted by all. Anyone having suggestions for meeting programs please contact Paul.

## 501c3 Progress

No further information is available at this time. We have heard nothing more from the IRS, and with the shutdown, it is probably delayed more now.

## The Gathering

October 12 was the date of the Gathering at the home of Mark Garrett in Macomb. Several of our members attended along with several Macomb Amateurs and Mark's friends. As always, we ate well Saturday evening with the potluck dinner and turkey provided by Rob, N9RIX. We thank Mark for hosting this event each year.

## VE Exams

Our last VE Exam Session was October 20. There were 6 VEs and one candidate, who passed the Technician Exam. So we had a 100% pass rate at that session! Thanks to the VEs assisting. Our next session is in January.

The license was issued only 2 days later than the average time for most of our test sessions. It is good to know that the government shut down did not slow down with a backlog. We were hoping this would be the case as the ARRL VEC processes all paperwork and submits the results to the FCC computer, which then creates the license and assigns a callsign.

## Hamfests

The next big hamfest near us is Fort Wayne November 16-17. This is one of the nice all indoor hamfests in our area. The War Memorial Coliseum is a newer building with lots of space inside and plenty of parking outside. The hamfest is totally inside, in one huge room. Many forums are scheduled, all on Saturday. The hamfest runs both Saturday and Sunday, with Sunday being a typical second day of a hamfest with very light attendance. Details are online at the following:

<http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

The drive to Fort Wayne is about 4 hours and is all Interstate Highway.

On November 30, the Evansville Hamfest will be at the 4H grounds in Evansville IN. It is Saturday only and mostly inside. Weather permitting, vendors may set up outside if they wish. Here is the link to the hamfest information:

<http://w9ear.org/hamfest.htm>

December hamfests are few, but January will see the regular first of the year events such as Waukesha WI and Collinsville IL. Look for details in the next newsletter.

## Get Your Newsletter by Email

Many club members receive this newsletter by email each month. If you are not one who does and would like to have it sent, please let Milt K9QZI know and you will be on the list. Email copies are sent at the same time the paper copies go to the post office. Thus, email recipients get the news a day or two earlier than those receiving US Mail.

## Lunch Bunch

We meet for Lunch almost daily. We have a reservation for Mondays in the meeting room at the Atlanta Bread Co. With the exception of the first Monday of each month. Because another group already booked the room, we will be in the main dining area. Other days we announce the location on 146.76, usually anywhere from shortly after Noon to 12:30.. All are welcome to attend and may come late, leave early, or both.

## Ethics and Operating Procedures For the Radio Amateur

In searching for answers to some procedural questions, we located an excellent publication provided by the International Amateur Radio Union. The title is shown at the top of this article and it covers almost everything related to operating on the Ham Radio Bands. Procedures, Ethics, courtesy, and "how to" are covered very well. It is 68 pages, written by John Devoldere, ON4UN, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW. Translations are available in more than 25 languages, all proof read for the language and proper language use. Both new and seasoned Amateurs can gather a lot of good information from this publication. We encourage everyone to download a copy (PDF) and use it to guide good operating on the air. The file is located at:

<http://www.ham-operating-ethics.org>

All operating modes are covered, including CW, HF, and Repeaters. It answers many questions about operating procedures, but it does not cover FCC rules. It is a good guide to proper protocol. Please download a copy and look it over.

## All Amateur Radio Operators Are Nerds!

This is a commonly-held misconception. Actually, only 95% of licensed amateur radio operator are nerds. We can't figure out how the other 5% got their licenses.

## Strange Foreign Mistranslations into English

### A doctor's office in Rome:

Specialist in women and other diseases.

### In a Rome laundry:

Ladies, leave your clothes here & spend the afternoon having a good time.

**Baofeng owners** - Curt, KC9UNL is willing to program your radio! [curtstamp@aol.com](mailto:curtstamp@aol.com)

## New K9SI Repeater

Al, K9SI, has his new K9SI repeater installed and it is running well. He brought it to our October meeting for everyone to see it before it was installed. We were impressed with the small size. The repeater is a Motorola Quantar, which is a current model intended for commercial use. Al purchased it used at the Peoria Hamfest to replace the one which worked only part of the time.

The Quantar is capable of 100 watts continuous duty, but it will probably be run at a lower power, around 80 watts to conserve the system. The repeater is equipped to provide analog FM service as well as P25 digital service. It will recognize the signal and output the correct signal. P25 (APCO 25 protocol) is common with many public service systems, our METCAD being one along with the Illinois State Police system. P25 is not compatible with D-Star, Mototrbo, or any other digital protocols. Those using the new K9SI repeater may wish to use tone squelch on their radios as when the P25 mode is activated, analog users will hear a buzzing sound on their radios if carrier squelch is used. Digital users may or may not hear the analog signals, depending on the radio and settings.

The frequency and CTCSS tone remain the same at 444.100 MHz and 162.2 Hz tone. This repeater is owned by Al and is not TCARC property. However, Al encourages everyone to use it to the fullest. With the wide coverage, this repeater is an excellent alternate for local and regional conversations. There are no outside connections or links such as Echolink or IRLP, so conversations will not be interrupted by remote connections.

Our ARES members hold a net on Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on this repeater, and they need to take over the repeater during times when weather spotters are out watching the skies. Please permit them to have control during major storms. Otherwise, it is open to all for conversations of any length,